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MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 17, 1877

Congress has adjourned for one month, and the country breathes easier. Congress doubtless has in its power, by the repeal of certain laws and the passage of certain others, to improve the condition of affairs greatly, but as its course in the past gives no indication that its future sittings will result more advantageously, it would be better if the adjournment had been prolonged for a year. The experience of this country, municipal, State and national, goes to prove that legislation, so far from benefiting the people, is the cause of most of their troubles. This being so, the relief consequent upon the temporary adjournment would be greater had the adjournment been for a longer period. The larger portion of the sessions of Congress is now consumed in contested election cases, personal squabbles and filibustering, neither of which redounds in the remotest degree to the general welfare, and as the appropriation bills could all be passed in a month, if the sessions could be restricted to that length of time the people would willingly consent to wait until greenbacks become worth as much as gold by the simple increase in their own valuation.

As the United States Senate had by no means as strong motives for confirming Mr. McLin, of the Florida returning board, as judge of the territorial court of New Mexico, as the President had for appointing him, they wisely refused to confirm the appointment. However, we don't suppose the President is at all grieved at the rejection. Mr. McLin fulfilled his part of the contract by swearing that Florida had gone for Hayes, and the President fulfilled his part by making the appointment alluded to. There the matter ended, so far as the principals were concerned. If a third party, the Senate, now comes in and annuls the appointment it is Mr. McLin's lookout, not the President's; and though the former doubtless thinks he has been badly abused, the latter, it is more than probable, is by no means sorry at having been so easily relieved of the disagreeable responsibility he had incurred. If the Senate will only pursue a like policy with reference to all the other Presidential appointments that were made upon the quid pro quo principle it will go far to establish the theory that out of evil good may come.

People from the North who have settled in Virginia, during the year now rapidly drawing to a close, must have realized the fact that this is indeed the Sunny South, and that the skies are blue and the lands fair where their Southern brothers live. Though the latter half of December has come, the weather for the past week has been as bright and pleasant as that of spring, and the air, instead of being filled with the sounds of winter's chilling blasts, has been resonant with the songs of birds. Truly we are a favored people, and what is more, we are willing to share our blessings with the honest men of all nations who choose to come and live with us.

The several baby shows that were attempted in Baltimore came to early grief. Mason and Dixon's line, though an imaginary one, forms as effective a barrier between the North and South as a rock-bound coast does to the advance of the sea. All sorts of isms, schemes, and projects take their rise in New England and rush down through all the North with unobstructed flow, until they reach that line; but there they meet with an insurmountable obstruction, and repulsed and scattered, return to torment those who gave them origin.

**Miscellaneous Foreign News.**  
The weavers of Blackburn, England, have waited on forty firms, running 27,580 looms, to ascertain whether they favor the proposed five per cent. reduction in wages. The owners of 6,570 looms favor and the owners of 13,190 looms oppose the reduction. The owners of 7,020 looms refuse to answer, and the owners of 800 wish to reduce the wages and working hours. Blackburn has about 52,000 looms.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies, on demand of the Ministers for a vote of confidence, gave a feeble majority, amounting really to a defeat.

Signor Depretis has informed the Chamber of Italian Deputies that in consequence of the present position of parliamentary parties the Ministers have resigned and the King has accepted their resignations, and charged him (Depretis) with the duty of forming a new Ministry.

A public meeting of from 6,000 to 8,000 persons in Pest adopted a resolution that the Government should resist, even if necessary with arms, the further extension of the power of Russia. The President of the Ministry refused to receive a deputation from the meeting, as it was accompanied by a crowd. The crowd becoming disorderly, the police cleared the streets.

ROME, Dec. 17.—The vote in the Italian Parliament on Saturday was on the question of the Ministers violating the freedom and secrecy of telegrams, but this was a mere pretext for discovering the general discontent, touching various political and financial questions. The vote stood—184 for, to 162 against the Ministers, which denoting ten abstentions and the votes of the Ministers and Secretaries left a majority of five. The Ministers afterwards were actually defeated in the Bureau on a question of electoral reform, whereupon they resigned. Signor Depretis will endeavor to reorganize the Ministry by bringing in the leaders of the dissatisfied sections.

The appeal court has sentenced the publisher of the *Osservatore Romano* (the daily organ of the Vatican and Clerical party) to six months imprisonment for libeling the Ministers of the Italian Free Church.

The Pope continues to improve. Some of the Cardinals desire to remove the Conclave to Trent.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—While Lord Derby and another gentleman were driving at Tunbridge Wells yesterday, the horses attached to their carriage became frightened and ran away. The coachman was instantly killed, but Lord Derby and his companion escaped with a slight shaking.

Hon. John F. Dreggs, ex-Congressman, died at East Saginaw, Michigan, this morning.

### Letters from Richmond.

**A Game Law Wanted.**—Alexander Hunter's resolution—Daniel as an *Extempore Speaker*—Who is *Abner?*—Mr. Barbour's *Abuse*—A *Break of Bad Luck* to the *Simon Pure*—Senator Lee in the Chair—The *Cutting Down Process*—The *Reign of Terror*—Senator Sinclair and Brigham Young—An *Interesting Chapter in the Early History of Mormonism*—Will the Legislature be Present at the Inauguration?—Is an *Oyster a Fish*?—President Hayes should be Plucked from His High Seat—Reform—The Talk About *Latitude* in the Party, &c., &c.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 15.—The only discussion in the House today was upon the following resolution, offered by Delegate Alex. Hunter, of Alexandria:

Resolved, That the rules of the House be so amended as to provide for a special committee on game, of not less than nine members, nor more than thirteen.

Gen. Taliferro, of Gloucester, opposed the resolution. Dr. Moffett opposed the resolution in that form. He wanted it "fish and game."

He proposed an amendment to this effect, which was adopted. Mr. Robinson, of Norfolk, moved to amend the resolution by inserting oysters. This was lost. The resolution was, finally, laid on the table, but it is evident that this will not be the last of it. Its advocates will take it up after the Christmas recess and push it through.

In the conference in the hall of the House of Delegates, Friday night, Maj. John W. Daniel, of Lynchburg, showed very conclusively that he could make a good extempore speech. The speech he made on that occasion was one of the best he ever made in his life. It could not possibly have been prepared, as it was called forth by what was said and done at that meeting, and it was made in reply to the speeches of other gentlemen on the floor.

The conservatives, or those who are opposed to the Barbour wing of the conservative party, claim that they have gotten the majority. The other side dispute it. Mr. Barbour was not in the city on the occasion of the conference, and his followers did not work together as solid as they would have done had they been inspired by his presence. Indeed one gentleman, Mr. McCull, of Pulaski, asked the conference to adjourn until Tuesday in order to give his side time to get its friends together. It was very well understood that he meant by "our side" Mr. Barbour, of Culpeper, who was out of the city, and this was an acknowledgment that he was their leader. Mr. Barbour will reach the city Tuesday, at which time, no doubt, the redemptive forces will change their tactics and make a bold movement. If, as the gentlemen who took part in the Friday night conference claim, they have the majority, then this will prevent the "Simon pure" readjusters from nominating the State officers, a thing which they are very anxious to do.

Senator Lee presided over the meeting. Friday night, very gracefully and impartially all must admit.

The maia for the reduction of salaries seems to be on the increase. In the House, to day, Mr. Walker, of Chesterfield, offered a resolution, sweeping in its character, for the committee on retrenchment to inquire into the expediency of reducing the compensation, fees and salaries of the city clerk, city engineer, city auditor, city treasurer, city sergeant and husting court clerks.

The city of Manchester Friday night reduced the salaries of its officers to a pitiable degree of smallness. For instance, the office of city engineer was abolished and the duties devolved upon the chief of police. The entire police force was reduced to two men, who are to get \$50 per month. The mayor's salary was reduced to \$300 per annum, an amount that most office boys make. The auditor, who is also secretary to the city council was reduced to \$710. The commissioner of the revenue was reduced to \$400. The city attorney was abolished. The Commonwealth's attorney was reduced to \$400 to perform his duties and those of the city attorney.

These and similar reductions will have the effect of decreasing the rush for office. It is, however, a mistake to believe that because a man is an officer, his duties are light and can be performed by anybody. Let the average Virginian be thankful that he is not an officer. Let him amble gracefully around and look at the suspended axe undismayed. Let him give more attention to grape culture and gold mining, and hog raising, and onion producing, and the pea-nut culture; he will be a happier man, and will be able to mark the events of each day with a white mark in the diary of his life, and look with sublime indifference upon the Kobesierre of the day and the trembling office holders.

Senator Sinclair reached the city to day and will enter upon the discharge of his duties. The Senator can boast of one of the greatest minds in the Legislature, and he is certainly one of the most brilliant talkers. It is worth a treat to hear him tell of the days when he was judge of the United States Court of Utah Territory. In the early days of Brigham Young, the Judge has had many a squabble with the late prophet, and the first case ever tried, "The United States vs. Brigham Young," was in the U. S. Court, with Judge Sinclair as judge, and Major Charles Morris Smith as prosecuting attorney on the part of the United States Government. The Judge gives a really vivid description of the occasion. How all the United States officers slunk away in terror; how the Court room was crowded with infuriated, armed Mormons; how one of the lawyers came to him and said, with face as white as a sheet, "Judge, if this trial goes on we will be dead men," and how he told the lawyer that he intended "to try the case if hell freezes over and I have to fight it out on the ice." Brigham Young, the prophet, never went into any building with his head uncovered, but always wore his hat. The Judge sent him word as he entered his Court room that he "had to take that hat off in the Court room; if he did not he would have it done." The prophet then took the hat off and came in with his head tied up in a bandanna handkerchief. The Judge and his attorney, Mr. Smith, did not flinch through the trial, notwithstanding the threats of the Mormons, but went through the case. If Judge Sinclair would write out this episode as he tells it, he would give a graphic and interesting chapter of the early history of the days of the Mormons.

If the Legislature adjourns to meet on the first of January it is more than probable that many of the members will be absent from the city on the occasion of the inauguration of Gov. Holliday.

During the debate on Mr. Hunter's game resolution the question was raised whether an oyster was a fish or not. One of the members said "Agassiz says it is a bad bone anyhow." An observing darkey in the gallery remarked, "D'd dat man talkin' Greek talk now," and turned away in disgust. Perhaps the freedman was right.

The famous "K. K. K.'s," the Conservative Kampakia Klub, will, I learn, take part in the inauguration ceremonies of Gov. Holliday. This Klub has been in existence ever since the war, and is perhaps the oldest conservative organization in the State. In fact, its history is the history of the conservative party itself.

In his speech last night at the conference Maj. John W. Daniel, in refuting the idea that the party lines in the conservative party should not be so tightly drawn, asked who was now President of the United States, and further said that "not until he was plucked from that high seat" would the time come for the conservative party to allow latitude. Maj. Daniel dealt unparagonably with independent, and insisted that they must be outside of the conservative party.

About seventy-five members of the two houses, who claim to be good and true conservatives, have authorized the secretary of the caucus to

enroll their names in accordance with the resolutions of Messrs. Bohannon and Clark adopted on Friday night, and it is probable that many more will join. Some of the s. p. readjusters have also, it is said, determined to join the regular organization.

It is understood that the double-funding already discovered totals about \$47,000, and that there are signs that it will amount to \$70,000.

RICHMOND, Dec. 16.—It is, as matters now stand, almost impossible to state with precision the situation of the public debt question, but the developments thus far indicate that the conservative members of the Legislature are divided into two parties entertaining diametrically opposite views with reference to the subject.

A considerable number of them, who, together with the twenty independents, probably constitute a majority of the General Assembly, are in favor of a forcible readjustment of the debt, and the passage by this Assembly of an act to effect the same. With this party are nearly all the members from the Southside, where the Mahone influence is most potent. They are very aggressive in their acts and opinions, and have evidently determined not only to carry out their policy if possible, but also to take possession of all the offices that the General Assembly under the Constitution and laws is authorized to fill. In pursuance of that plan they appeared in full force at the conservative caucus on the 5th inst., after having had a preliminary meeting at which their course was determined upon, and voted solidly to permit twenty independents, two republicans, and the two greenback workmen from Lynchburg to participate in the caucus, knowing that these persons would vote for Allen for Speaker, and thereby secure for the forcible readjusters the chairmanship of the principal committees and a large representation thereon. This party is known here as the "Simon Pure" or Fulkerson-Barbour readjusters. They have been nightly for a week past holding secret meetings in the Ballou House, for a purpose, which they have not yet avowed, but which is believed to be to marshal their forces and settle upon some plan by which their intention to turn out all the present officers of the government and put in their places those entertaining their views can be accomplished. Some of them have gone so far as to say that they propose to reorganize the judiciary, and secure one, every member of which will be committed to the policy of forcible readjustment, and that with this object in view they will support at the coming election for judges of the courts only those who are known to be in accord with them on that question. What measure they intend to introduce to accomplish their object with reference to the debt, or how they expect to override and nullify the decision of the Court of Appeals on the Funding Act of 1871, is not yet known.

The remaining members of the General Assembly, including your delegate, Mr. Mushbach, stand upon the conservative platform adopted at the late gubernatorial Convention, and are utterly opposed to repudiation, or its synonym, forcible readjustment. They favor a compromise of the debt with the assent of the creditors of the State, and hold that any adjustment to which the creditors would not be prepared to submit, would not only dishonor and tarnish the good name and fame of the Commonwealth, but is impossible of accomplishment in view of the decision of the Court of Appeals on the Funding Bill. That bill they agree was wrong in principle, and detrimental to the interests of the Commonwealth, in that it took away from the State for thirty years to come the right to control its own revenue, but as the high Court of Appeals has, after full argument and careful consideration, decided that the act is irrevocable by the law and accept that which they cannot get rid of without the assent of the creditors. They propose to favor all schemes that have for their object retrenchment in the expenditures of the government, so as to bring the same as near as possible to the ante-bellum condition, without increasing taxes, to meet its just obligations, should all attempts to compromise the debt be unsuccessful.

On Thursday night, the 13th inst., an adjourned meeting or conference of those members of the General Assembly who stand upon the principles enunciated in the platform adopted by the conservative convention which nominated Col. F. W. M. Holliday for Governor, and who are opposed to repudiation or forcible readjustment of the public debt, was held in the hall of the House of Delegates, Senator C. T. Smith chairman and Senator Hairston secretary. The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to bring about an interchange of views on the vital question of the public debt and devise if possible some measure to meet the emergency.

Those introduced by Mr. Walker, of Northumberland, Mr. Bocock, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Bland and Mr. Mushbach looking to a conference between the creditors of the State and a joint committee of the General Assembly, but they were all tabled at the suggestion of General Blair, who desired, before any action in the matter was taken, to appoint a committee to wait upon the Ballard House readjusters and endeavor to bring about some understanding and secure harmony in the conservative ranks. He offered a resolution to that effect, which was adopted and the meeting adjourned.

The members of the General Assembly who have been elected as nominees of the conservative party, and those who have been elected as readjusters or conservatives in the counties and cities where there were no nominations by the conservative party, are requested to assemble in the hall of the House of Delegates on Friday, the 14th inst., at 7:30 p. m., to confer together, and act on such matters as may be considered necessary for the interest of the State and the preservation of the organization of the party.

At the hour named about one hundred and twenty of the members assembled at the designated place, and Gen. W. H. F. Lee was made chairman of the meeting. A number of the forcible readjusters were present, and upon the ground that those who had been elected as readjusters, and who were not members of the party, had no right to sit in its caucuses. The forcible readjusters combated this view, and nearly all of them refused to respond to their names when the eyes and noses were called on the resolutions before the meeting, for the reason, as some of them stated, that the whole thing was a trap to catch them.

At the conclusion of the call, Mr. H. H. Harrison, of Sussex, one of their leaders, arose and stated that the meeting was gotten up by a lot of political tricksters, that two of the most prominent members whose names were signed to the call for the meeting had only that morning been treating with his party (the forcible readjusters) for admission into the Ballard House caucuses, and that he and those who were of his way of thinking, would "contaminate the hall" and with several others, turned to leave, and had gotten as far as the door, when Daniel called him back and demanded to know if his remarks were intended to apply to him. Harrison made some evasive reply. Daniel repeated the question, and receiving a direct response, he denounced Harrison as "contaminating the hall and sound!" In an instant the meeting was in confusion, nearly every one present springing to his feet gestulating and shouting, while one enthusiastic individual in the gallery yelled, "Forward Daniel, but before the parties come together, a number of members sprang in between them and prevented any further difficulty. Afterward Harrison withdrew his remarks, disclaimed any reference to the gentleman from Lynchburg; mutual explanations took place and quiet was restored.

Mr. Bohannon's resolution was adopted, and the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

**The Eastern War.**  
A Constantinople dispatch says: Several of the Powers have already acknowledged the receipt of the Porte's circular. The tone of Italy's reply is very exultatory and friendly. It says Italy will endeavor to have steps taken, in concert with other Powers, for the purpose of offering mediation.

Mr. Layard, the British Ambassador, denies that he has sounded the Porte as to the conditions of peace it would be willing to accept.

The London Observer states it has reason to believe the Turkish circular was dispatched at the instance of England.

The Scotsman's London correspondent says it is understood that the English Government has not wished to act without the concurrence of the other Powers. It is most anxious to avoid complications, which might lead to unpleasantness with Russia. The Porte has been informed that Russia desires Turkey to negotiate direct with her, and that mediation would only make the terms harder. The peace party seem to be gaining ground somewhat. Great discontent prevails among the population of Stambul. Seditious placards are frequently found.

A Berlin correspondent telegraphs that Germany has replied to the Turkish note that Germany's participation in mediation depends upon Russia's consenting to parity. The North German Gazette and National Gazette concur in declaring that the Powers will not listen to Turkey's appeal.

A Pera correspondent says the Turkish Government obviously feels its capability of resistance exhausted, and would gladly make peace upon reasonable terms.

The Turks burned and evacuated Elena on Friday. The Russians have reoccupied it. The Servians have crossed the Turkish frontier at Piarat, and are marching on Kossowa.

A correspondent at Plevna telegraphs the following concerning Osman Pasha's reception by the Russians: "The Grand Duke Nicholas rode up to Osman's carriage, and for some seconds the two chiefs gazed into each other's faces without the utterance of a word. The Grand Duke stretched out his hand, shook the hand of Osman Pasha heartily, and said: 'I compliment you on your defence of Plevna. It is one of the most splendid military feats in history.' Osman smiled sadly, rose painfully to his feet, in spite of his wound, and said something which I could not hear. He then retreated himself. The Russian officers all cried, 'Bravo! bravo!' repeatedly, and all saluted respectfully. There was not one among them who did not gaze on the hero of Plevna with the greatest admiration and sympathy. Prince Charles, of Romania, who had arrived, rode up and repeated unwittingly almost every word of the Grand Duke, and likewise shook hands with Osman, who again rose and bowed, this time in grim silence. He wore a loose blue cloak, with no apparent mark on it to designate his rank, and a red fez. He is a large, strong built man. The lower part of his face is covered with a short black beard, without a streak of gray, and he has a large Roman nose and black eyes. 'It is a grand face,' exclaimed Col. Gaillard, the French military attaché. 'I was almost afraid of seeing him, lest my expectations should be disappointed, but he more than fulfills my ideal. It is the face of a military chief.' Said young Skobeleff, 'I am glad to have seen him. Osman Ghazi he is, and Osman, the victorious, he will remain in spite of his surrender.'"

A special from Constantinople Sunday asserts that Osman has telegraphed to his family that his wounds are progressing well.

The London Daily Telegraph of yesterday morning, however, asserts that dispatches have reached London from Bucharest that Osman had poisoned himself, and it was believed he was agitated by a Mahomedan horror of amputation, which the surgeon informed him was necessary. The story is still doubtful.

Various dispatches received in London at a late hour last night confirm the suicide of Osman Pasha.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from Constantinople to Reuters Telegram Company, dated Sunday evening, says: "The death of Osman Pasha, while en route to Bucharest, is announced here to day."

Note.—This does not settle the question as to Osman Pasha's death, as it has the same basis as the reports previously telegraphed to the United States. Official advices from Bucharest must be awaited before all doubt is removed.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A telegram from Bucharest, dated Sunday evening, makes no mention of the death of Osman Pasha.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 17.—Mahmoud Darnah has gone to inspect the fortifications of the Balkans. A Russian force appeared at Tashan, between Kiumari and Sofia, but was driven back.

It is known heavily in the Balkans, and it is believed the passes will be rendered impassable.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 17.—Two Russian divisions are moving to cut the Turkish communications with Trebizond and attack Erzerum from the north.

A dispatch from Bucharest at 1:45 o'clock this afternoon, announces the arrival of the Czar at his place, but does not mention the death of Osman Pasha.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A Cabinet Council was held to day. It is believed that the subject of the meeting was to further consider the question of moderation in connection with the Porte's circular.

The "Bears" on the Stock Exchange are circulating a rumor which is probably utterly groundless, that Lord Derby, Foreign Minister and the Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for India, have resigned.

**France.**  
In the French Chamber of Deputies Saturday Mr. Leon Say, Minister of Finance, proposed a convocation of the councils general for December 21st and of the councils of the arrondissements for December 19th. He said it would be impossible to vote the entire budget, and he, therefore, proposed that the Chamber vote the four direct taxes. He hoped the Chamber would authorize the collection of the other items of revenue according to existing law. The Government asked for a credit of \$29,500,000 francs to cover two months. This vote would indicate the Chamber's confidence in the Government, and he trusted that the Chamber would not refuse it. The Chamber then voted urgency on two bills, in conformity with the foregoing statement, which were referred to the Budget Committee. The committee thereupon proceeded to deliberate on them in the bureau.

Later in the day the Budget Committee reported favorably on Mr. Say's propositions. Mr. J. J. Loidia, on behalf of the Bonapartists, stated he would support Mr. Say's recommendation, but not as expressing confidence in the Ministry. The Duke de Rochefort-Bigot made a similar statement on behalf of the Legitimists. Mr. Say replied that the Government never thought of taking a vote of confidence on the budget, which would be unparliamentary. The Chamber then voted the bill.

The Republique Francaise, M. Gambetta's organ, considers that President MacMahon's message is frankly Republican in tone and consonant with the true doctrine of national sovereignty. The same journal highly eulogizes General Borel, the new Minister of War.

M. Emile Girardin was yesterday elected Deputy from the Ninth arrondissement of Paris. PARIS, Dec. 17.—General Daurieu de Paladieu, life Senator of France, is dead.

The Finance Committee of the Tennessee Senate on Saturday recommended a compromise in the payment of the State debt at fifty cents on the dollar, the bonds to bear interest at six per cent.

### The Gordon-Conkling Affair.

The following are the particulars of the settlement of the Gordon-Conkling affair, the fact of which was published in Saturday's Gazette: When the Senate adjourned Friday several Senators, acting without consultation with their principals, undertook to compose the difficulty. They met for that purpose at the Capitol. These persons were Hamlin and Howe on the part of Conkling, and Kasson and McDonald on the part of Gordon. They sat until an hour past midnight Friday night, and reassembled at eleven o'clock Saturday morning when a statement was agreed upon, which was entirely satisfactory to the friends of both Senators. This settlement was formally accepted by Conkling and Gordon, and was brought into the Senate and read there.

The friends of General Gordon say that the reports that any communication was exchanged between the parties or received by either, either of a direct or an indirect character, are wholly unfounded. No communication passed. Efforts for peace were immediately begun by gentlemen whose character was a guarantee that a settlement would be arrived at. It is certain that Paul Sheridan and Senator Jones, of Nevada, were Mr. Conkling's special counsellors, but neither of these gentlemen will make any statements upon the subject.

During Saturday's session of the Senate the following proceedings took place, as reported in the Record:

Mr. Thurman, Mr. President, there is a matter to which the attention of the Senate will be called, I am authorized to say or to believe, and that ought to be considered perhaps with closed doors; and under Rule 41 I move that the doors of the Senate be closed.

Mr. Allison and Mr. Morrill. That can be done.

The Presiding Officer. The Senator from Ohio moves that the doors be closed.

The motion was agreed to, and the doors of the Senate Chamber were closed.

Mr. Hamlin (while the doors were closed) submitted the following order, which was considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to:—

Whereas a misunderstanding having arisen between Hon. Kasson Conkling and Hon. John B. Gordon in the course of the executive proceedings of the Senate of yesterday, and mutual understandings thereon having been arrived at, as set out in the following paper:—It is Ordered, That said paper be entered at large on the Legislative Journal of the Senate, namely:—

"During an executive session of the Senate held yesterday words were uttered both by Senator Gordon, of Georgia, and by Senator Conkling of New York, which were mutually felt to be unkind and offensive. Reports of the incident appearing in the press of this morning, which are inaccurate and unjust to both speakers; upon a careful inquiry as to what was said by each speaker and what was understood to be said by the other, it is certain that the first of the words were inspired by a honest misunderstanding of what had been innocently said by the other speaker. One harsh remark provoked another, as too often happens, but all that was offensive was the outgrowth of misapprehension. Since such was the fact, who are mutual friends of both Senators, and of the country, it is due alike to the Senate and the speakers that whatever was felt to be unkind or offensive in the remarks of either should be treated as if never uttered, and we are now authorized to state, are mutually and simultaneously withdrawn."

December 15, 1877.  
The Senators who had the most to do with the settlement were Mr. Hamlin, in behalf of Mr. Conkling, and Mr. Kasson on the part of General Gordon. The paper was read in the Senate in the presence of all the witnesses to the affair, and met so completely the approbation of all the Senators that it was ordered unanimously to be entered on the records of the Senate.

**Legislative.**  
In the State Senate, on Saturday, a resolution was adopted directing the clerk of the House of Delegates to demand an immediate report from the clerks of the Circuit Courts of Newdiddle, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Madison, Charles City, Mathews, Rappahannock, Alexandria, Frederick, and Grayson counties of the matters required of them by section 22, chapter 159, Code of 1873—the report of the business in the courts, including the suits and criminal prosecutions and the general progress of business; also inquiring into the expediency of reducing the fees and allowances to city and county officers. Mr. Lee presented a resolution, as a substitute, that the clerk of the Committee on Privileges and Elections be required to perform the duties required by the committee.

In the House of Delegates bills were reported in relation to the protection of sheep in Fairfax, and in relation to the pay of judges of the Circuit, Chancery and Husting courts. An adverse report was made upon the bill to amend the act in relation to judges of Husting and Corporation courts practicing in their own courts. Bills and resolutions were presented and referred to defuse the jurisdiction of police justices and justices of the peace in the trial of misdemeanors; for an amendment to the constitution in relation to county courts; as to the expediency of exempting from taxation farming utensils of each farmer who owns \$200 worth or less; to amend section 44 of an act to provide for working and keeping in order the roads of the Commonwealth; and instructing the Committee on Retrenchment to inquire into fees, salaries, and compensation of husting court clerks, commissioners of the revenue, treasurers, city sergeants, and husting court clerks. A resolution was adopted instructing the clerk of the House to prepare a tabular statement showing the population of each county in the State as ascertained by the census reports of 1870, the present school population of each county and the number of taxable heads in each county according to the last official reports, and that 600 copies of the same, when prepared, be printed. Bills were passed to amend the first sub-division of the 15th section of the act for the assessment of taxes on persons, property, income, licenses, &c., and imposing taxes thereon for the support of the government and free schools and to pay the interest on the public debt. A resolution offered by Mr. Hunter, of Alexandria, for the greater protection of game, &c., was laid on the table. Mr. Farr introduced an act to amend an act to enforce the constitutional amendments restoring the right of suffrage, &c. Mr. Lovell introduced a bill for the appointment of senators and members of the House of Delegates.

In joint session Thomas M. Alderson was elected county judge of Russell, and A. M. Atkin corporation judge of Danville.

**From Washington.**  
[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.]  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17.

Congress having adjourned and most of the members gone home, everything at the Capitol is quiet. A few members of the House are loitering about, apparently unwilling to leave. At the Clerk's office there is some bustle, the employees being paid off; otherwise all is dull. At the Departments there is nothing of interest to note.

The excitement consequent upon the Conkling-Gordon difficulty has subsided, and it is now considered that it ended as it did.

There will only be one investigating committee in session during the recess—that on the Mexican border troubles.

The city to day presents quite a holiday appearance, the streets being filled with people, and the windows of the stores looking very pretty.

Workingmen! Look to your interests and save doctor bills by using Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

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The city to day presents quite a holiday appearance, the streets being filled with people, and the windows of the stores looking very pretty.

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### News of the Day.

A desperate fight occurred between the white and black Saturday afternoon at Mount Vernon, Alabama, originating between a white man and a colored barber. The friends of each rushed in to assist and caused the fight to become general. Revolvers and knives were freely used. The negroes cut the worst of the struggle and were driven out of town, except three, who were nearly beaten to death. After the mob returned to the barber shop they burned it to the ground, together with its contents. One negro was killed and a negro wounded. Three whites were terribly cut by knives and wounded with bullets. None were killed.

Three fires occurred in Philadelphia Saturday night at the same time. A fourth occurred just as the hose was being taken up after the other three had been extinguished. The first was at a carpenter shop and coffin establishment; the second at the bakery of William M. Williams; the third at the trunk factory of J. S. Simons; and the fourth at the stable of J. L. & C. Coyle, where seven horses were burned, valued at \$1,000 and said to have been in 2:50.

Some two hundred girls and boys, camping at one of the New York cigar works, were taken to town, where the cigar makers are on a strike, were attacked and maltreated severely by a gang of the strikers as they were leaving the factory for dinner. The police came to their assistance and the assailants fled. Some girls and boys were badly beaten.

The actor, F. C. Bangs, as stated Saturday was seized Thursday night on the Cleveland Opera House stage with paroxysm of neuritis in the leg, and carried to his hotel. There he lay until Saturday night. Yesterday Mr. Bangs was unable to move, and his trouble is ascending his spine towards his head. He may not recover.

Boat Alexander, colored, the murderer of Thomas Dougherty, a white man, was taken from the Murfreesboro jail, Tennessee, Saturday morning and hanged. His body riddled with shot. This is the same man Alexander has been mobbed, having previously escaped.

Richard H. Snowden, a well known lawyer of Baltimore, accidentally shot himself at his home on Saturday morning while cleaning a pistol. He only survived his wounds a few hours.

Baroness de Bassiere, daughter of R. Halladay, the California millionaire, died New York yesterday at the New York hospital from pneumonia. She was about 25 years of age.